REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of December 11, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. Nonetheless, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 was objected to due to an informality.

Appropriate correction has been made according to the Examiner's suggested correction.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7 and 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,173,250 to Jong (hereinafter Jong), in view of U.S. Patent 6,816,578 to Kredo, *et al.* (hereinafter Kredo), and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2004/0049389 to Marko, *et al.* (hereinafter Marko).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jong, in view of Kredo and Marko, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,339,754 to Flanagan, *et al.* (hereinafter Flanagan). Applicants respectfully disagree with the claim rejections and thus have not amended the claims to overcome the art references.

Aspects of Applicants Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method of voice-to-text reduction for real-time messaging.

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The method can include receiving a speech input from a calling party and transcribing the speech input to a text message in the same language as the speech input. The method can also include converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language as the received text message. A profile of the calling party or the called party can be used to specify how to replace at least a portion of the text message with an alternative text portion having a similar or the same meaning, where the alternative text portion used is of a shorter length than the replaced portion of the original text message. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0021]; see also Fig. 2.

The method further can include performing data compression to compress the alternative text message prior to transmitting the alternative text message as a data stream defining a text stream and transmitting the text stream to a called party. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0021]. Finally the method can include receiving the text stream by the called party and rendering the alternative text message for the called party in substantially real-time. See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0007] and [0021].

The Claims Define Over the Cited References

Jong discloses an apparatus and method for speech-text-transmit communication over data networks. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Jong does not disclose converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language wherein the alternative text portion has a shorter length than the replaced text message, or compressing the translated text message prior to transmission. However, it was asserted in the Office Action that Kredo discloses converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language wherein the alternative text portion has a shorter length than the replaced text message and that Marko discloses compressing the translated text message prior to transmission.

As shown in Fig. 3D of Kredo, an IM proxy server 26 is configured to translate short hand representations in a <u>text</u> message (230) <u>into</u> corresponding words, phrases or sounds in a <u>speech</u> (232) or to convert recognized <u>speech</u> (234) <u>into</u> an appropriate <u>short hand representation</u> (236). In either case, the conversion is between a text and a speech, not from text message to a shortened text message. Clearly, Kredo does not disclose converting the <u>text message to an alternative text message</u> in a same language wherein the alternative text portion has a shorter length than the replaced text message, as recited in Claims 1, 11, and 19 of the instant application.

Marko does not make up for the differences between the present invention and the combination of Jong and Kredo.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the cited References, alone or in any combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claims 1, 11, and 19. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1, 11, and 19 define over the prior art. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 11, or 19 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if
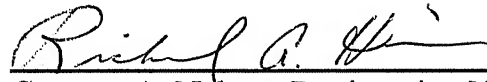
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the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

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